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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 7
Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement* submitted by the Arab Association for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[08 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02219(E)

Please recycle

The Delegitimization of the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel Fuels Violence and Undermines Basic Democratic Principles

1. Last year, on the eve of his reelection, the prime minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu set the tenor of the government's treatment of the Palestinian Arab minority by warning publicly: "The Arabs are coming out to the polls in droves." Since then, an escalation of violence and a severe security response have only confirmed the dire realities of Palestinian Arab citizens living under an Israeli regime that is hostile to their very presence.

2. This submission discusses only a few manifestations of that hostility—showing Israel's transition from mere marginalization and toward downright delegitimization of the Palestinian Arab minority—by which the lives, liberties, rights and status of Palestinian citizens of Israel are treated as conditional and inferior. Not only does this racism impair basic democratic principles, but it also threatens to inflame tensions both within Israel and in the surrounding region and to undermine the universal realization of human rights.

Background of Discrimination

3. Israel has refused consistently to enshrine into its Basic Laws an explicit guarantee of equality and non-discrimination, leaving the Palestinian Arab minority, which constitutes roughly 20% of the population, vulnerable and destitute. The most recent government statistics show the Arab minority's poverty rate at a staggering 52.6%, having worsened in recent years.[1] Despite the recent approval of a budgetary plan intended to help the Arab community, decades of institutional discrimination—in development, infrastructure, housing, education, employment, etc.—have left the Palestinian Arab minority impoverished.

4. This systemic discrimination is both reflected and reinforced by the attitudes of the Israeli public. A recent report by the Israel Democracy Institute found that among the Israeli Jewish majority:

- 73.6% prefer important security decisions to be made by Jewish majorities, rather than by Arabs, and 53.6% would require Jewish majorities for decisions on governance, society and the economy;
- 56.6% oppose the inclusion of Arab parties or ministers in the government;
- 39% regard Palestinian Arab citizens as a security threat.[2]

Additionally, a recent poll by the Institute for National Security Studies found that:

- 44% of Israeli Jews regard Palestinian Arab citizens as people to be treated with suspicion;
- A further 36% regard Palestinian Arab citizens as "enemies."[3]

5. Rather than combat the proliferation of racist sentiment among the public, the Israeli government has often incited toward greater animosity and fear. In addition to the statement by Prime Minister Netanyahu mentioned above, other

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[1] *See* 2014 ANNUAL REPORT ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL GAPS, NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE (2015), http://www.btl.gov.il/Publications/oni_report/Documents/oni2014.pdf.
[2] *See Israeli Democracy Index*, ISRAEL DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE, (2015), http://en.idi.org.il/media/4256544/democracy_index_2015_eng.pdf.
[3] *See* Danna Harman, *Poll: More Than a Third of Jewish Israelis See Arab Citizens as 'Enemies'*, HAARETZ (Jan. 20, 2016), http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.698370.

politicians have made public statements demonizing all Palestinians as "snakes" and enemy combatants,[4] or boasting of having "killed lots of Arabs."[5] In October 2015, crowds of Jewish extremists were seen assaulting Palestinian Arabs in Jerusalem while chanting "Death to Arabs." In the midst of that madness, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat exhorted Israeli civilians to take up personal firearms against alleged terrorists—"It's like a military reserve duty."[6]

6. Mob violence and other crimes targeting the Palestinian Arab minority have been enabled in this climate of hostility, resulting in attacks on Arabs, Jews and foreigners alike. The State of Israel is obligated under international human rights law not only to prohibit incitement by its own agents, but also to prevent or to prosecute such violations as may arise from private persons.

7. Moreover, the delegitimization of Palestinian Arab citizens has extended to Arab politicians. After Arab Knesset members met with the families of Palestinians who were killed without their bodies being returned for burial, the government initiated a bill to suspend lawmakers for "unbefitting behavior."[7]

Devaluation of Palestinian Life

8. Since the escalation of violence that erupted late last year, Israeli forces have killed over 100 Palestinians both in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory. While Israel has the right and duty to maintain public order and safety, its willingness and eagerness to use force suggest that the rights to life, liberty and bodily security of Palestinian Arabs are not respected seriously.

9. Two incidents in October 2015 are highly indicative of this approach: the police killing of 19-year-old Fadi Alloun near the Old City of Jerusalem, and the police shooting of 30-year-old Asraa Abed in the northern Israeli city Afula. Although both were claimed by police to be involved in stabbing incidents, video footage of both shootings shows patently that neither posed an imminent threat to anyone. These shootings appear less akin to proper law enforcement than to summary executions; but a widespread failure to investigate incidents of police violence has enabled law enforcement to act with impunity.[8]

10. International human rights law demands that law enforcement exercise great restraint and employ lethal force only as a last result, when absolutely necessary and proportional for a lawful objective. No emergency or state of exception can relax the absolute prohibition on the arbitrary deprivation of life. The staggering amount of casualties in recent months suggests one thing: the lives of Palestinian Arabs do not matter in Israel. This compels not only a review of the rules of engagement that permitted them, but also a thorough investigation and prosecution of possible violations.

11. The HRA notes further the recent approval of policies that threaten to increase police abuse against the Palestinian Arab minority. In September 2015, the security cabinet relaxed the rules of engagement to permit law enforcement to use .22-caliber live ammunition in Jerusalem. This month, the Knesset passed a law that permits police to "stop-and-frisk" individuals on the basis of a reasonable suspicion—a standard that disproportionately affects minorities, especially Arabs.

Dispossess and Punish

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[4] *See, e.g.*, Ishaan Tharoor, *Israel's New Justice Minister Considers All Palestinians to Be 'the Enemy'*, WASHINGTON POST (May 7, 2015), https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/05/07/israels-new-justice-minister-considers-all-palestinians-to-be-the-enemy/.

[5] Ariel Ben Solomon, *Bennett Under Fire for Comments About Killing Arabs*, JPOST (Jul. 30, 2013), http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Bennett-under-fire-for-comments-about-killing-Arabs-321467.

[6] Nir Hasson, *Jerusalem Mayor Calls on Civilians to Carry Weapons in Wake of Terror Attacks*, HAARETZ (Oct. 8, 2015), http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.679383.

[7] *See* Barak Ravid et al., *Netanyahu, Coalition Party Heads Agree to Advance Bill That Could Suspend Israeli Arab MKs*, HAARETZ (Feb. 7, 2015), http://www.haaretz.com/.premium-1.701942.

[8] *See, e.g.*, *Concluding Observations*, para. 30, U.N. Doc. CERD/C/ISR/CO/13 (2007).

12. Israel has imposed exceedingly harsh penalties upon Palestinian Arabs convicted of security-related offenses. However, two forms of punishment warrant special attention. The first concerns the revocation or withholding of social benefits and legal status. For example, individuals convicted of throwing stones may have their National Insurance benefits stripped, and the parents of minors convicted of throwing stones will have their benefits withheld for the duration of their child's sentence. Israel has moved or threatened to revoke the citizenship or residency status of Palestinian Arabs charged with security offenses. Last month, Interior Minister Dery revoked the permanent residency status of four Palestinian Arabs indicted, but not convicted, for security offenses.[9]

13. The second concerns the continued practice of demolishing the family homes of Palestinian Arabs charged or convicted for security offenses. This practice, which has continued into 2016, has been given judicial imprimatur by the Israeli High Court of Justice.

14. Such measures are profoundly troubling for they obliterate a great number of human rights: e.g., the rights to nationality, social security, family life, housing and movement. Particularly regarding the Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem, such policies serve only to dispossess an already stateless population. And in cases where the rights of suspects' or convicts' families are affected, fundamental guarantees of due process, and against collective punishment, are violated—contrary to both international human rights and humanitarian law. All of these show a systemic denial of the value and status of Palestinian Arabs, either as citizens or as residents, that tends toward the dispossession of an already disenfranchised minority.

Conclusion

15. The developments of recent months reveal that human and civil rights in the State of Israel are granted conditionally and capriciously to Palestinian Arabs. This grim reality exacerbates tensions, fuels violence, undermines the rule of law and frustrates any serious commitment to the universality of human rights. On the basis of the above, the HRA urges the Council to:

- Condemn anti-Arab incitement in Israel and reiterate the necessity of Israel to incorporate, explicitly and unqualifiedly, the principles of equality and non-discrimination into its laws and policies;
- Condemn Israeli police violence and call for the thorough investigations of possible violations;
- Demand that Israel's penal system comply with international human rights standards, apply only to the individuals convicted in a court of law, and cease immediately the policy of punitive house demolitions;
- Call upon Israel to take effective and immediate measures to guarantee the empowerment and full enjoyment of human rights of the Palestinian Arab minority.

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[9] *See* Ilan Lior, *Israel Revokes Residency of Four East Jerusalemites Indicted for Terror Attacks*, HAARETZ (Jan. 21, 2016), http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.698790.

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Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[04 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02221(E)

Please recycle

Sick Prisoners in Ramle Prison Hospital

Al- Ramla prison hospitals located inside Al Ramla prison and is considered one of its sections, it includes eight rooms for Palestinian security prisoners, currently 19 prisoners are languishing in it permanently, who suffers from chronic diseases where it is considered as one of the most dangerous sections in the occupation prisons, as well as some Palestinians who were injured during the Jerusalem Intifada.

Also, there are tens of sick prisoners who are frequented to Ramla prison hospital for days or weeks and then they leave to their prisons again, after being under some medical examinations hen providing them with painkillers.
Prisoners who are Languishing in Al-Ramla hospital do not receive proper treatment for their health and even they are treated like other prisoners in other different prisons in terms of repression , abuse, inspection and confiscation properties, continuous sanctions, and even depriving them from their medication, so that prisoners who have lived in this prison call it "slaughterhouse of Ramla, "where it lacks of the minimum health needs, refusing call it a hospital, because it basically does not provide prisoners with needed health services.

Sick prisoners who are languishing in what called Al-Ramla Hospital are suffering from difficult situation, so they sleep almost22hours a day to escape from their suffering and pain, most of them are paralyzed moving on wheelchairs and injured who are subjected to a deliberate medical negligence policy, they are given nothing except painkillers and hypnotics, most of them are living in extreme danger and never get better in this hospital, despite the passage of years since being there.

Al-Ramla prison hospital is ineligible in service or structure, so the prison administration transfers from time to time the sick detainees with critical conditions to be treated in other Israeli hospitals. Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities deliberately ills the prisoners psychologically and physically, starting with the tragic situation in the hospital to help spreading diseases, through the medical negligence policy, and ending with the malnutrition and deprivation policy deprivation.

The occupation authorities deal with Al-Ramla hospital like any other prison which has any privacy despite the fact that all prisoners are in critical conditions, everything happened in this prison was confirmed by the sick prisoner "Riad Al-Emour," who suffers from heart disease and stayed in the hospital for several years, he said:"The occupation prisons' service proceeded to organize training repression forces(special forces) in Al-Ramla prison hospital departments, those exercises took place in the night hours, where those units stormed the patients' rooms and damaged the sick prisoners' properties for4 hours every time. Furthermore, the suppression unit, called (Al-Matsada) broke into their rooms, where they continued searching for five hours and when they left, the prisoners were forced to arrange their properties. "
The ex-detainee "Akram A-Rakhawi", who stayed 8 years in that hospital, he said that A-Nahshoun unit broke in the hospital department and stripped all prisoners especially hypos padi as patients with polyethylene bag, where they dislodged them while they are naked, unforgettable scene " paralyzed patients, stripped forcibly and brutally, as if you see a terrorist arrest process, where those patients were taken from their rooms to other site with bounded hands and dragged on the floor brutally, those scenes I can't forget.

Prescript wrong medications
The occupation crime against prisoners did not stop at not prescribing medications heals their diseases, but deliberately sometimes they prescribe wrong medications that does not heals the prisoner's disease, so this is why some prisoners suffer from a difficult health problems, including the prisoner:"Khaled Hassan", and Abdallah Al-Qadi (35 years) from Rafah in the southern of Gaza Strip, who was diagnosed with hepatitis disease as a result of giving him wrong medication after what happened with him as a result of being transferred to isolation confinement in May, 2014.

Permanent Prisoners Names in Al-Ramla hospital

	Prisoner's Name	Area	Verdict	Disease
1	Khalid Jamal Al Shawesh	Tubas	Life	Suffering from paralysis in the lower

			imprisonment	part of the body due to injury with 14bullets during his arrest, moves on a wheelchair, he has only sedatives, and suffers from permanent trembling.
2	Nahed Farag Al Aqra'a	Gaza	Life imprisonment	He was arrested and had An amputated foot after being injured by missile shrapnel, his second foot was amputated in prison infections spread due to medical negligence. He moves on a wheelchair.
3	Mansour KhaleelMoqeda	Salfeet	35 years	Suffers from partial paralysis, he has a plastic stomach and intestines, he uses bags for output, due to several injuries during his arrest.
4	Ashraf Moheeb Abu Al Hoda	Nablus	Aressted	Suffers from lower parts paralysis as a result of being shot in the side and back near the spine, so he can't move his feet and he suffers from severe pain
5	Ameer Fareed YaseenAsa'ad	KaferKena	6 years	He is paralyzed with a wheelchair, suffers from severe pain, and only receive painkillers.
6	Mo'atsemTalebRaddad	Hebron	20 years	Suffers from Intestines cancer since 2009 and internal bleeding with critical condition.
7	Shady IshaqDaraghma	Qalandia camp	Arrested	He is partially paralyzed and suffers from continuous pain.
8	Yusuf Ibraheem Abdelfattah Al nawaja'a	Hebron	Arrested	Suffers from Epilepsy and handicapped due to an injury in the pelvicin 2000, he carries two bags of urine and stool. and he has memory loss, vision problems, stomach-aches, and breath shortness, he receives only sedatives.
9	IyadFawziRedwan	Tulkarem	25 years	Representative of sick detainees in Ramla Hospital, and a volunteer to take care of them
10	RatebAbd Al-Lateef Hrebat	Hebron	22 years	Volunteers in providing assistance to sick detainees, he suffers from author in the bone in the palm of his hand, he had a surgery but it failed.
11	AlaaIbraheemAl Hams	Gaza	29 years	Suffers from at um or in the larynx and lymph nodes, he is also infected with tuberculosis, severe crisis in his lungs, ulcers in stomach, and weakness in the retina.
12	Mohammed Faheem Shalalda	Hebron	Aressted	He was arrested in October2015 after being shot in Bait Ommer, accused by trying to run over soldiers, he lives in critical condition where he was under many surgeries and still connected to devices.
13	Maher GhanemAl Farrokh	Hebron	Arrested	A military Jeep ran over him during

				the clashes that broke out in Beeraon30th, Oct, 2015, where he was beaten with guns and legs, which caused many fractures and bruises. His condition is critical.
14	Sami Ahed Abu Diak	Jenin	3 life imprisonments	He suffers from inflammation of liver, gallbladder, pancreas, and he underwent a surgery at Soroka, to remove a tumour in his intestines, after that he had as eve empoisoning and infections in his intestines, which led him to the danger stage.
15	Azmi Sahel Nafa'a	Jenin	Arrested	Student at An-Najah National university, he was shot in the face at Za'tara checkpoint in the south of Nablus, the occupation claimed that he had ran over three soldiers deliberately and got injured
16	Jalal ShaherSharawneh		Arrested	He is17 years old, he was shot by settlers in his legs during his arrest in October, 2015andtaken to "Soroka" hospital where he is in a coma, before this transfer he was taken to"Ramleh prison clinic", noting that it is not qualified to accommodate difficult situations, the occupation was forced to transfer him against intensive care at "Assaf Harofe" after being in critical condition, where they amputated his right leg.
17	Bassam Ameen Al Sayeh	Nablus	Arrested	He Suffers from leukaemia and bone cancer .Also he suffers from heart muscle, and continuously he entersincoma, also he needs chemotherapy.
18	MosaabmohammedGhnemat	Soreef	Arrested	He arrested in 23rd,Oct, 2015, after being shot by the Israeli occupation forces, he was injured in the right foot and he underwent surgery in his foot suffered from severe pain and now languishing in the bone department at the hospital.
19	Hamada AbdelazizAtawneh	Jericho	Arrested	On 23rd, Octhe was wounded badly with live bullets in the right leg by the occupation forces on21st,Nov,.2015nearQalqilyaduring his way to work in the territories of1948.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Bahraini prisoner of conscience and former MP Shaikh Hasan Isa: from enforced disappearance to solitary confinement and ending in unfair trial

Shaikh Hasan Isa, who is a former MP of Al Wefaq opposition bloc and a cleric, was arrested on 18-8-2015 from Bahrain International Airport at 8.30 pm at his arrival with his family from a vacation trip. He was directly taken to the criminal investigations department (CID) without being allowed to call his lawyers or learn of the reasons for his arrest. As a result, his family was concerned of his condition, given that his lawyer asked about him in the CID and was told that he was not there.

On the next day, his lawyers approached the Public Prosecution Office to notify the office of his enforced disappearance and that they have power of attorney to attend his interrogation sessions. His enforced disappearance continued for 16 days where he was not allowed to contact his family or lawyers. On 3rd of September, 2015 he was allowed a phone call to his family in the CID. He asked for some personal items and clothes.
On 9th of September 2015 he was allowed access to his lawyer in the building of the CID for 15 minutes only, that was 22 days after his arrest.

We then learned that he was subjected to coercion and threat by his interrogator (an investigation officer in the CID) where he told him: "If you don't confess to the accusations against you, we will take to the torture room". He was also denied his right to pray and shower for over 2 weeks. His interrogation session took place at late night hours just a few hours after his arrest, although he was tired from his travel vacation. His interrogator insisted that he be questioned in these difficult conditions.

We have reviewed the minute-record of his questioning by the police and found no crime he could be punished for by the law. However, the police transferred him to the Public Prosecution Office with the accusation of "funding terrorism acts". The Prosecution Office interrogated him without the presence of a lawyer despite the fact that the Bahraini law implied the presence of a lawyer with every defendant of a crime in order to protect his right but the Prosecution Office acted against the law and accused him with the same charges the police laid against him, and transferred his case to the Supreme Criminal Court – fourth unit.

On 12th January 2016, Shaikh Hasan Isa's first hearing session was held. He looked exhausted (physically and psychologically) due to his detention in solitary confinement. In the hearing, Sheikh Hasan Isa denied all charges against him before the judge, however, the latter ordered for the continuation of his detention and adjourned the case to 28th February 2016 to hear the defence team's (his lawyers) response. After the session he was taken back to solitary confinement as he remained until the moment of writing this report.
We have followed the course of interrogation and trial and found that he was subjected to violations and abuse. We mention the main violations below.

1. Enforced disappearance for 16 days
2. Denied access to family and lawyers until his interrogation in the Prosecution Office was over
3. Subjected to coercion and threat to confess the accusations against him in the CID building
4. His bank accounts were revealed without permission from the Prosecution Office
5. His mobile phone was searched without his permission or the Prosecution Office's permission
6. Denied right to prayer and shower
7. Arrested without permission from the Public Prosecution

Thus, ShaikhHasan Isa must be released immediately and without conditions given that he is a prisoner of conscience and was arbitrarily arrested because of his peaceful political activism and practice of the right to opinion and expression. Above all this, he is a cleric and the Bahraini Authorities seek to entrench sectarian persecution against the Shia sect.

This case, as well as the hundreds of cases of prisoners of conscience in Bahrain, fosters the belief that the judiciary in

Bahrain lacks independency and that it is used to retaliate from dissidents who express their opinion peacefully. It is therefore necessary that the member states in the Human Rights Council include Bahrain in the agenda of the HRC's sessions as a human rights crisis that needs the attention of the Council.

Based on the information laid in this case and other cases, we hereby urge the member states of the Human Rights Council to pressure the Government of Bahrain to allow the Special Rapporteurs listed below a visit to Bahrain and respond to 7 visit requests made by UN Special Rapporteurs:

1. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
2. Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of assembly and association
3. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
4. Special Rapporteur on arbitrary detention
5. Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression

We also recommend the member states to press the Government of Bahrain to improve the human rights situation through the following steps:

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- To ratify the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances
- To allow independent human rights NGOs regular entry to Bahrain to help monitor the human rights situation in Bahrain
- To open inclusive, impartial and independent investigations in the allegations of torture and mistreatment
- To review or annul laws that restrict freedom of expression without justification, and the freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- To make a comprehensive reform in the legal system to ensure the independency of the judiciary
- To press for the issuance of a permit to open a Country Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Bahrain 2015: The increase of oppression, restriction of freedoms and seeking the assistance of Jordan in torture, the National Institution of Human Rights ignores the claims of torture

Human rights situation continued to decline in 2015, and the violation cases within the period between January and September are as follows: 1422 cases of arbitrary detention including 28 women, 241 children, while 264 citizens were exposed to torture and ill-treatment and degrading treatment, including 97 cases of short-term enforced disappearance, and 52 cases of deprivation of treatment, while the number of political judgments against 667 persons who are convicted in political cases with a total of 5628 years, including six death sentences, 47 of life imprisonment, and 128 cases of nationality deprivation. 232 citizens were deprived of nationality including politicians and human rights activists and media activists. Bahrain also witnessed the 5495 cases of peaceful protests, 1789 people were exposed to tear gas and ammunition of firearms (shotgun) that resulted in the injury of 630 citizens as a result of the use of unjustified force, and this is not subject to the principles of internationally-accredited necessity and proportionality as per the international law. Despite the UN statement issued from 33 member state in the Human Rights Council last September, directed to Bahrain, which tackled the harassment and imprisonment of those who exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, including human rights defenders who have been arrested or tried or summoned and several opposing political figures including Ibrahim Sharif, Khalil al-Marzouq, Mr. Jameel Kazim, Mageed Milad, Fadil Abbas, Mr. Mohamed Algriffi, Sheikh Maytham Salman. The Second Criminal Grand Court upheld the first degree imprisonment sentence against the former MP Khaled Abdel Aal because of Tweets on Twitter. The authority did not respond until this moment to 7 applications by the special rapporteurs to visit Bahrain, including the private UN Special Rapporteur on torture Méndez Brothers. They did not speed up the full implementation of the recommendations of the Bassiouni and Geneva, with the prohibition of the right to peaceful demonstrations in Bahrain which continued this year; where we have received reports stating that the authority refused to receive notice of more than 130 peaceful rallies since January 1, 2015.

Instead of the Bahraini authorities respond to the demands of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an impartial rapid investigation about the events of Joe Prison in March 2015 prison and the victims of torture and ill-treatment, the Fourth High Criminal Court issued in January 25, 2016, a ruling of a 15 year-sentence in prison for 57 detainees for in "Joe prison ", where the total sentences reached 855 years, while they do not make the involved security officials accountable in this incident.

It is worth mentioning that the security authorities have used nearly 500 officials of the Ministry of Interior officers who surrounded the prisoners of Joe Prison in March 2015 and used tear gas in closed places, causing bottlenecks, a crime described in the law "attempted murder", in addition to the lead fission "shotgun" and severe beatings of a large number of prisoners. The leaked images show the forms of torture in prisons which is incriminated by the domestic and international criminal law. Information is also received about the use of the Jordanian security authorities elements in the torture of detainees in this incident, and this is contrary to the local and international law where Bahraini law does not permit the use of foreign elements in the punishment of the citizens, including the forms of torture. We still receive complaints of some detainees about the denial of the right to medical treatment.

The Bahraini Ministry of Education politicizes the academic scholarship as 2015 witnessed the highest levels of sectarian discrimination againt major national component which is the Shiites. 34% of the Shiites highest outstanding students were deprived of the missions while 146 cases have been studied. 127 students out of the total number of students (630) have been deprived of scholarships of in the last five years, which violates four international humanitarian principles, namely: the principle of investing in the human element, the principle of citizenship rights, the principle of transparency that achieve tranquillity, and the principle of care.

The Bahraini Minister of Interior Rashid Abdulla Al Khalifa announced at a news conference in August 2015 the intention issue a license for the imams of mosques and dissemination of sermons in an attempt to violate the internationally- guaranteed right to autonomy of religious affairs, which is inseparable from what has already been recorded from the appalling violations of the right to freedom of belief. The report of the US Commission on Freedom

of Religion confirmed that there is much to be done to implement the recommendations of the Bahraini Independent Commission of Fact Finding to address abuses against Shiite Muslims who have reached about 65% of the citizens and to continue to improve the conditions of freedom of religion in the country.

On the other hand, the report issued by the National institution for Human Rights about the year 2014 did not reflect the reality of the human rights crisis, and was providing illogical justification for the non-implementation of the authority to the recommendations of its report in 2013, while they failed to discuss the policy of impunity in the report, and ignored claims of torture and restriction of freedoms , and has been busy proving the approval of the statute of the principles of Paris while the institution did not meet the first point of the item "composition and guarantees of independence and pluralism."

(This statement was prepared by Bahrain Forum For Human Rights)

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Please recycle

Torture, cruel and inhumane punishment/treatment of Saharawi population by the Moroccan authorities

The Moroccan occupying forces resort to torture and cruel and inhumane treatment on a daily basis to repress the Saharawi population in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. Torture is on-going and has not diminished, nor is it prevented by the presence of the United Nations Mission.

Hundreds of complaints have been presented to denounce the gross violations committed by the Moroccan authorities and are well documented.

Peaceful protesters are brutally beaten. These beatings have resulted in some cases, like the one of Miss Sultana Khaya, in the loss of an eye that was "removed" by a baton with nails. The Moroccan authorities aim the sensible parts of the body intentionally. When Saharawi are arrested or abducted the torture is even worse with beatings, sleep depravation, forced kneeling, hanging by the feet or hands for hours, group torture and sexual molestation, amongst others.

Children are also targeted as a way to intimidate and ingrain fear in them. This happens in the school where they are beaten, called 'dirty Saharawi, and humiliated by the teachers and employees.

Police officers in plain clothes are sometimes present in the school yards they threaten Saharawi children with rape and sexually assault the girls.
The children do not sleep well; they have nightmares, and are afraid to be "taken in the night". Night raids into Saharawi houses are frequent and children witness torture of their family members as well as their abductions.

There are dozens of reports of children that were severely beaten and tortured by the police, in the middle of the street or in the outskirts of the cities where they are taken by force, without apparent reason.

Mahmoud (13) was coming home from school when 4 police cars stopped. The agents got out and started beating him. His sister (12) heard him and came running, but the police threw stones at her. He was beaten senseless with a bar, hands and batons as well as being kicked. When he could no longer move they dragged him off his feet and threw him to the floor repeatedly. Then he put his arm to protect his head and they broke his arm. Eventually they left him in the street.
Mahmoud was "operated" twice. The first time the doctor put a metal plate in his arm but it had to be removed again. The second "surgery" was the removal of the metal plate without any anaesthesia or painkiller. The doctors opened his arm with a knife and took out the metal plate. "I only saw blood and it hurt horribly" said Mahmoud.

Inside the hospital of Laayoune, police agents and auxiliary forces are present, sometimes even during surgery, forbidding the use of anaesthesia when the patient is a Saharawi activist.

Torture is on-going and is used to obtain confessions but also to "subdue" and "re-educate" Saharawi political prisoners, as well as a common practice whenever prisoners are transferred from one prison to another.

Torture is denounced not only by former political prisoners, they also frequently feature in the reports of observers of trials where prisoners denounce torture and demand medical examinations during the trial to the judge; however, these claims are never investigated

The reported torture methods include:

- 'Airplane' - Victims are forced to bend over while standing with their legs straight. The person's head is bent down until it cannot go down any further, while the hands are pulled up and held up to the highest point. The hips have to point upwards.
- Beatings
- Burning with cigarettes

- Chemical burns
- Chemical inhalation
- Removal of finger and toe nails
- Light deprivation
- Pretend Drowning
- Electrocution
- Whipping of feet
- Force -feeding
- Hanging by the feet
- Mutilation
- Oxygen deprivation
- Rape/sexual assault
- Roasted Chicken - victim is suspended from a pole or spit
- Sodomy with sharp objects such as broken bottles, iron rods, legs of chairs
- Solitary confinement
- Sleep deprivation
- Starvation
- Strappado/squassation (also known as reverse hanging and Palestinian hanging)
- Stress positions
- Sweden drink - ingestion of urine and faeces
- Ta'liq - hanging from a metal bar
- Waterboarding

The use of torture to subdue and intimidate the Saharawi in the occupied territories is known and public, it is urgent that the International Community and the United Nations take a stand to protect the Saharawi population and implement the approved resolutions, namely the referendum of self-determination, putting and end to the on-going massacre and violation of the most basic human rights.